

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 6, 12 and 17 and ADD new claim 23 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) An address data management method comprising:
acquiring address data from a purchaser wishing to purchase and have merchandise delivered, said acquiring ~~capable of storing~~ a plurality of delivery addresses, including addresses of one or a plurality of non-purchasers;
establishing a respective unique address identification (ID) for each of said plurality of delivery addresses in said address data, said unique address IDs being invulnerable to reverse translation by a third party into said address data, and notifying said purchaser thereof;
managing a correspondence table indicating correspondence between said address data and said respective unique address IDs;
accepting delivery request data generated by a vendor of said merchandise based upon a delivery request from the said purchaser, said purchaser having given a unique address ID as delivery address;
looking up the unique address ID in said delivery request in said correspondence table, and extracting a corresponding one of said plurality of delivery addresses in said address data;
and
executing delivery processing of an article based on said extracted address data.
2. (Previously Presented) An address data management method according to claim 1, wherein at an elapse of a set length of time following establishment of said address ID, the corresponding address ID in said correspondence table is deleted.
3. (Original) An address data management method according to claim 1, wherein an address ID corresponding to address data for which delivery processing has been executed a predetermined number of times is deleted from said correspondence table.

4. (Original) An address data management method according to claim 3, wherein an address ID corresponding to address data for which delivery processing has been executed once is deleted from said correspondence table.

5. (Previously Presented) An address data management method according to claim 1, further including accepting from said purchaser instructions to make said address ID invalid, and deleting the corresponding address ID in said table.

6. (Currently Amended) An address data management method comprising:
acquiring address data from a purchaser wishing to purchase and have merchandise delivered, said acquiring ~~capable of storing~~ a plurality of delivery addresses, including addresses of one or a plurality of non-purchaser/non-purchasers;

establishing a unique user account for identifying said purchaser and notifying said purchaser thereof;

managing a correspondence table showing the correspondence between said address data and user accounts;

in response to an inquiry from a vendor of merchandise that said purchaser wishes to purchase and have delivered, authenticating said purchaser using said purchaser's user account, establishing an address identification (ID) invulnerable to reverse translation to said address data by a third party, and notifying said vendor of said address ID;

accepting delivery request data generated by a vendor of said merchandise that includes said address ID; and

executing delivery processing of an article based on address data corresponding to said address ID.

7. (Previously Presented) An address data management method according to claim 6, further comprising:

computing use points for said user account each time delivery processing is executed;
and

awarding benefits to said user account based on the accumulated total of said use points.

8. (Previously Presented) An address data management method according to claim 6, further comprising transferring said delivery request data to said purchaser when delivery

request data has been received from said vendor, and accepting confirmation information from said purchaser.

9. (Previously Presented) An address data management method according to claim 6, further comprising determining whether the address ID included in delivery request data received from said vendor is valid, and deciding whether to execute delivery processing of said article based on the results of said determination.

10. (Previously Presented) An address data management method according to claim 6, further comprising setting up benefits in advance to award to said vendor each time delivery request data is received from said vendor.

11. (Previously Presented) An address data management method according to claim 6, further comprising:

acquiring information relating to settlement method by said purchaser; and
settling accounts with said vendor based on information relating to settlement method upon receipt of delivery request data from said vendor.

12. (Currently Amended) An address data management system comprising:
address data acquisition means for acquiring address data from a purchaser wishing to purchase and have merchandise delivered, said address data acquisition means ~~capable of~~ storing a plurality of delivery addresses, including addresses of one or a plurality of non-purchaser/non-purchasers;

address identification (ID) establishment means for establishing a respective unique address ID for each of said plurality of said delivery addresses in said address data, said unique address IDs being invulnerable to reverse translation by a third party into said address data, and notifying said purchaser thereof;

correspondence table management means for managing a correspondence table indicating correspondence between said address data and said respective unique address IDs;

delivery request acceptance means for accepting delivery request data generated by a vendor of said merchandise based upon a delivery request from the said purchaser, said purchaser having given a unique address ID as delivery address; and

delivery processing means for looking up the unique address ID in said delivery request in said correspondence table, extracting a corresponding one of said plurality of delivery

addresses in said address data, and executing delivery processing of an article based on said extracted address data.

13. (Original) An address data management system method according to claim 12, wherein said correspondence table management means deletes the corresponding address ID in said correspondence table when a set length of time has elapsed following establishment of said address.

14. (Original) An address data management system according to claim 12, wherein said correspondence table management means deletes an address ID corresponding to address data for which delivery processing has been executed a predetermined number of times.

15. (Original) An address data management system according to claim 12, wherein said correspondence table management means deletes an address ID corresponding to address data for which delivery processing has been executed once.

16. (Original) An address data management system according to claim 12, wherein said correspondence table management means accepts from said purchaser instructions to make said address ID invalid, and deletes the corresponding address ID in said table.

17. (Currently Amended) An address data management system comprising:
address data acquisition means for acquiring address data acquisition means capable of storing a plurality of delivery addresses, including addresses of one or a plurality of non-purchasers, from a purchaser wishing to purchase and have merchandise delivered;

user account establishment means for establishing a unique user account for identifying said purchaser and notifying said purchaser thereof;

correspondence table management means for managing a correspondence table indicating correspondence between said address data and user account;

address identification (ID) establishment means for, in response to an inquiry from a vendor of merchandise that said purchaser wishes to purchase and have delivered, authenticating said purchaser using said purchaser's user account, establishing an address ID invulnerable to reverse translation to said address data by a third party, and notifying said vendor of said address ID;

delivery request acceptance means for accepting delivery request data generated by a

vendor of said merchandise, that includes said address ID; and

delivery processing means for executing delivery processing of an article based on address data corresponding to said address ID.

18. (Original) An address data management system according to claim 17, further comprising:

use point management means for adding use points for said user account each time delivery processing is executed; and

benefit presentation means for awarding benefits to said user account based on the accumulated total of said use points.

19. (Original) An address data management system according to claim 17, further comprising request confirmation means for transferring said delivery request data to said purchaser when delivery request data has been received from said vendor, and accepting confirmation information from said purchaser.

20. (Original) An address data management system according to claim 17, further comprising address ID determination means for determining whether the address ID included in delivery request data received from said vendor is valid, and deciding whether to execute delivery processing of said article based on the results of said determination.

21. (Original) An address data management system according to claim 17, further comprising vendor benefit establishment means for establishing benefits in advance to award to said vendor each time delivery request data is received from said vendor.

22. (Original) An address data management system according to claim 17, further comprising:

settlement information acquisition means for acquiring information relating to settlement method from said purchaser; and

settlement means for settling accounts with said vendor based on information relating to said settlement method, upon receipt of delivery request data from said vendor.

23. (New) An address data management method, comprising:

storing a plurality of delivery addresses as address data from a purchaser, including

addresses of one or a plurality of non-purchasers;

establishing a respective unique address identification (ID) for each of said plurality of delivery addresses and notifying said purchaser thereof;

accepting delivery request data generated by a vendor of said merchandise based upon a delivery request from the said purchaser, said purchaser having given a unique address ID as delivery address;

determining a corresponding one of said plurality of delivery addresses in said address data based on said address ID; and

delivering an article to said corresponding one of said plurality of delivery addresses.